

# **REDUCING PESTICIDE WASTE IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Pesticide Collection**

**Pesticide Container Recycling**

**Pesticide Container Rinsing**

**Triple Rinsing**

**Pressure Rinsing**

**Transportation of Pesticide Containers and Usable Pesticides**

**Container Care**

**Pesticide Waste Minimization**

## **BACKGROUND**

In 1992, the South Dakota Legislature enacted laws allowing the creation of programs which include pesticide container recycling and unusable pesticide collection projects.

Goals of the programs are to reduce the risks to the environment and human health from the storage of unusable pesticides and to provide an opportunity for pesticide applicators to dispose of containers properly. This will also reduce the amount of plastics in South Dakota landfills and the environment. These goals are of great benefit to everyone in the state, while they cost the applicator nothing.

The program was originally funded by a \$100 per product surcharge of pesticide manufacturers when they register pesticides for use in the state. The fee was dropped in 1997. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture (SDDA) administers the programs, with cooperation from the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, Ag industry, local entities, and individuals. The Pesticide Disposal and Container Recycling Advisory Committee (a group which includes agricultural, local government, and environmental interests) provides oversight in the development and implementation of the programs.

## **UNUSABLE PESTICIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

**\*\*Only UNUSABLE PESTICIDES are eligible for collection.\*\***

The law defines a "WASTE PESTICIDE" as:

**Any pesticide formulation can be considered unusable if the:**

- label uses have been canceled (i.e. DDT and toxaphene);
- product is no longer in usable condition (i.e. dry products that have caked or liquids that have settled and can't be remixed);

- product is unidentifiable and label is missing, so proper use is impossible.

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

**Preregistration:** Product information and the names and addresses of people with pesticides to dispose of are collected by the SDDA. For unidentified pesticides it is requested that you provide as much information as is available (i.e. what form the product is in, what it looks like, the type of container it is in, etc.). The Department requests [preregistration](#) as early as possible so we will have time to prioritize products and determine the amount of shipping materials needed to complete the project.

**Prioritization:** Some registered chemicals may not be collected. The SDDA ranks the registered pesticides, considering a number of criteria to determine which products will be collected. The program is designed to dispose of unusable pesticides, not unused or left-over pesticides. If a product is still legally labeled for use and is in a form which can be applied, it is not eligible for collection. Those products should be used according to label requirements before they go out of condition.

**Notification:** Once the pesticides have been prioritized for collection, **ALL** who registered will be notified by mail whether or not their pesticide will be collected. Those who registered qualifying pesticides will be given further details regarding collection.

**Collection:** Persons holding pesticides eligible for disposal will be requested to bring the pesticides to one of the collection sites across the state on the day designated for collection. Collection sites and dates will not be advertised and only those who preregister will be notified of the time, date and location of the collection.

## PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

**Eligibility:** Farmers, small businesses, homeowners, and others using pesticides.

**What Can Be Recycled:** Empty and properly rinsed rigid plastic pesticide and surfactant containers of any size, and steel containers in sizes from 5 to 55 gallons will be collected.

**Preparation of Containers:** It is the responsibility of the applicator to properly prepare the containers for recycling.

**Rinsing:** Eligible pesticide containers must be, at a minimum, [triple rinsed](#) or [pressure rinsed](#) IMMEDIATELY after emptying them.

**Drying:** No more than .5 ounces of water may remain in the container, and the water must be clear.

**Caps:** It is requested, but not mandatory, that caps be removed and properly disposed of prior to collection day. They are made of a different type of plastic that cannot be recycled in this program.

**Labels:** It is requested, but not mandatory, that labels be removed and properly disposed of prior to collection day. However, properly cleaned containers that are brought to the collection with labels will be accepted.

**Collection:** Pesticide containers will be collected at approximately 30 sites across the state during the summer. Participants will be requested to bring the containers to these sites only on the designated collection days. Containers will be inspected before acceptance. Acceptable containers will be recycled, while those with visible residue will be rejected. Before rejected containers can be considered for recycling or disposal, the applicator will be requested to properly clean and return them.

### **Pesticide Container Rinsing**

**Remember: It is the responsibility of the applicator to properly dispose of pesticide containers, preferably through recycling.**

- Proper rinsing prior to recycling or disposal is required by state and federal law.
- Rinsing pesticide containers is a good agricultural, economical, and environmental practice.
- Read and follow all label instructions.
- Wear appropriate protective clothing and equipment when working with pesticides.
- Use a backflow prevention device when rinsing pesticide containers or filling sprayer tanks from a water source.
- Unless rinsed from the container immediately after emptying, some pesticides will solidify quickly and become difficult to remove.
- Adding rinsate from the containers directly into the sprayer tank, efficiently and economically uses all pesticides in the container, eliminating the need to store rinsate for use or disposal later.
- Never reuse a pesticide container for another purpose.
- Be sure to return returnable containers.

### **Triple Rinsing**

#### **How to Triple Rinse:**

1. Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the sprayer tank. Let container drip and drain for an extra 30 seconds once it is empty.
2. Fill the container 1/5 to 1/4 full with water.
3. Secure the cover on the container.
4. Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.

5. Remove cover and empty the rinsate from the container into the sprayer tank and let it drip and drain for an extra 30 seconds once it is empty.
6. Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.
7. Leave container open to let air dry.
8. Inspect container for cleanliness paying close attention to threads and the outside of the container (more rinsing may be needed).

### **Pressure Rinsing**

#### **How to Pressure Rinse:**

1. Remove cover from container. After emptying the pesticide into the spray tank, let the container drip and drain for an extra 30 seconds once it is empty.
2. Continue holding the container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so the rinsate will run into the sprayer tank.
3. Insert the pressure rinse nozzle by puncturing the bottom or the side of the pesticide container.
4. Rinse for the full length of time recommended by the manufacturer (generally 30 seconds or more).
5. Leave container open to let it air dry.
6. Inspect container for cleanliness paying close attention to threads and the outside of the container (more rinsing may be needed).

### **Transportation of Pesticide Containers and Unusable Pesticides**

When transporting empty **Pesticide Containers**, secure them in the back of a pickup or truck to prevent them from blowing out while in transport.

When Transporting **Unusable Pesticides**, a greater degree of caution is necessary. Place containers in heavy plastic bags, then in boxes, and tightly secure them in the back of a pickup or truck to prevent tipping, shifting, or blowing out while in transport. **NEVER CARRY PESTICIDES IN THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF ANY VEHICLE.**

Be prepared for an accident or spill by carrying the proper equipment and supplies. For detailed information on handling spills, contact the SDDA or your local extension agent. Finally, drive cautiously. Emergency personnel will be alerted on collection days, but make sure their services are not needed.

### **Pesticide Container Care**

Improper storage conditions may lead to deterioration of containers and potential leaks. Before moving pesticides, determine if the containers are in sound condition. Refer to pesticide labels for specific storage requirements. If container is not in good condition it will need to be placed in a larger leak proof container or

heavy plastic bag. Use extreme care not to rupture the container and spill the contents.

**NEVER** move old pesticide containers without wearing proper clothing: chemical resistant gloves (at least rubber gloves), long sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, and rubber footwear. If there is a possibility the pesticide is highly toxic, additional clothing and equipment will be necessary.

## **PESTICIDE WASTE MINIMIZATION**

### **How to avoid pesticide waste.**

- Buy pesticides packaged to create less waste after being used, like those which come in water soluble packaging or in bulk form.
- Buy only the amount of pesticide you intend to use in a season.
- Reduce the amount of pesticide you keep in storage at any one time, storing it no longer than necessary.
- Rotate your pesticide supply, using the oldest products first.
- Store pesticides under proper conditions, avoiding damage from freezing, heat, or high moisture. Many pesticides require storage temperatures between 40- and 100- F under relatively dry conditions.
- Store all pesticides in a secure location away from occupied areas and on an impermeable floor, such as concrete, to allow detection and containment of spills. Products not stored properly may crystallize, settle out, or form a solid which cannot be used.

Important reminder: **IT IS NOT ILLEGAL TO HAVE CANCELLED OR DISCONTINUED PRODUCTS IN YOUR POSSESSION. IT IS ILLEGAL TO DISPOSE OF THEM IN AN UNAPPROVED MANNER.**

These programs are provided as a service to the citizens of South Dakota at no charge and without regulatory intentions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF AGRONOMY SERVICES  
523 EAST CAPITOL PIERRE, SD 57501-3182  
(605) 773-4432

OR: YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE